

DIN 11
NATOOL**515 killed in Afghan earthquake**

ISLAMABAD (R) — A severe earthquake killed 515 people, injured about 3,000 others and destroyed thousands of houses in Afghanistan's northern province of Baghlan last month. Kabul Radio said Tuesday. The radio monitored here by Reuters said the earthquake on Dec. 16 also killed more than 20,000 cattle in several villages in Baghlan's Puli-Khumri and Narin districts. Tents, food and clothes had been rushed to the stricken area, where about 7,000 homes had been destroyed and 14,000 damaged, the state-run radio said. The earthquake was also felt in northern Pakistan and the meteorological station at Peshawar, capital of Pakistan's northwest frontier province bordering Afghanistan, registered it at 6.0 on the Richter scale. The station placed the epicentre of the quake near Afghanistan's biggest underground coalmine at Karkar in the rugged Hindu Kush region about 160 kilometres north of Kabul.

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Sand, Junblatt discuss Saudi role in Lebanon

BAHRAIN (R) — Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt and Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal Tuesday discussed prospects for a Saudi role in securing Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon and preserving security there, the official Saudi Press Agency said. It gave no other details of the meeting in Riyadh. Mr. Junblatt, president of the Progressive Socialist Party of Lebanon, said on arrival in Riyadh two days ago that the Lebanese people were pinning their hopes on the kingdom's ability to contain fighting in Tripoli, in north Lebanon. More than 200 people have been killed in a month of clashes between pro- and anti-Syrian factions in the city, where a ceasefire now appeared to be holding. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, whose country is working behind the scenes for a settlement in Lebanon, Monday night renewed his appeal for an end to the fighting and pledged to back Lebanon's independence. Saudi Information Minister Mohammed Abdo Yamani said, after a regular cabinet meeting which discussed Lebanon, that the King was pained by the fighting among the Lebanese who should be working together to lift Israel's stranglehold, the agency said.

European parliament calls for Israeli pullout

STRASBOURG (R) — The European parliament Tuesday urged Israel to withdraw immediately from occupied Arab lands and said a Palestinian state should be an optional part of a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East. The assembly approved by 135 votes to 25 with 32 abstentions a resolution which said that any European peace moves should be coordinated with the United States and take into account an initiative by France and Egypt at the United Nations. This confirmed national rights of the Palestinian people and called for mutual recognition of all the parties concerned in the region, parliamentary sources said. They said most of the resolution was in line with positions adopted by the 10-nation European Community since 1980. But the call for immediate Israeli withdrawal went further than earlier community statements.

Iran upgrades diplomatic ties with UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Iran has upgraded its diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with the appointment of its first ambassador to Abu Dhabi since the 1979 Islamic revolution. The new ambassador, Mahmud Sadiq Afshar-Shahian, Tuesday presented his credentials to President Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahyan, pledging to promote ties between Muslim people. The Emirates News Agency, WAM reported. Sheikh Zaid stressed the UAE's commitment to boost relations with Iran, the agency added. Iran has had only a chargé d'affaires in Abu Dhabi since the revolution.

Soviet satellite to enter atmosphere in 2 weeks

WASHINGTON (R) — A small part of a disabled Soviet satellite has entered the earth's atmosphere and apparently burned up but the main nuclear power unit is not expected to follow for about two weeks, U.S. intelligence officials said Tuesday. They said another small section of the Cosmos satellite is expected to burn up in the atmosphere soon. The Cosmos 1402 ocean surveillance satellite broke into three pieces when it lost power and started to lose orbit late last month. The U.S. officials said they had no idea where the 45 kilogramme nuclear unit might land. The official Soviet News Agency TASS suggested Friday that the nuclear power unit would be completely destroyed during re-entry to the atmosphere, leaving a radioactive shell that would "remain within natural background limits."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة اخبارية مستقلة عربية نشرها مجلس الصحافة العربية "الراي"

Lebanon starts rebuilding Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government took a first step Tuesday towards rebuilding the centre of Beirut, ravaged in the 1975-76 civil war, and indicated that work could start in April. A government agency advertised in newspapers for civil engineering contractors to apply for qualification to submit tenders for building a road along the Mediterranean coast north of the city centre. "It is expected that the works will commence by mid-April 1983," the Council for Development and Reconstruction said in the advertisements. The council plans to spend \$1.2 billion rebuilding Lebanon over five to 10 years. The centre of Beirut, once an area of busy covered markets and broad streets of banks and shipping agencies, has been an overgrown wasteland since the civil war.

Habib heads back to Mideast**Violence flares up in Lebanese mountains**

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Fresh violence flared in the mountains around Beirut Tuesday as U.S. special envoy Philip Habib headed back to the Middle East to try to speed up talks on an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

One person was killed and two were injured when several artillery shells landed in outlying suburbs of Beirut, state radio said.

Government sources said Tuesday the United States had put forward a "composite agenda" which included both Lebanese and Israeli views on various topics.

The radio said earlier two people died.

The outlying suburbs are near the sites of continual battles in recent months between Christian and Druze militias. Tuesday's incident followed a gunbattle between two villages near Beirut Monday in which state radio said three people died.

Mr. Habib announced in Washington Monday he was returning to the Middle East immediately after President Reagan expressed concern about the slow pace of talks on a withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon, including the mountain battle areas.

Mr. Habib said he would head first for Israel. But there was no immediate word on when he would arrive there.

His announcement followed a fifth round of talks between Lebanese, Israeli and U.S. negotiators which again failed to agree on an agenda for the main talks on an Israeli pullout.

Mr. Habib added: "It's just taking too long... the United States believes that the matter can be dealt with a great sense of urgency."

Mr. Habib said that was why Mr. Reagan was ordering him to cut short his vacation and return to the Middle East. "One of the things that I will attempt to do,"

said, "is to move the process along at an accelerated pace."

The importance Mr. Reagan attaches to the issue was underlined by the imposing group gathered in the Oval Office for the meeting with Mr. Habib.

In addition to Mr. Reagan, Mr. Bush and Mr. Shultz, the session included Defence Secretary Weinberger; National Security Affairs Adviser William Clark; Deputy Secretary of State Dam; Edwin Meese, counsellor to the president; Michael Deaver, deputy chief of staff of the White House; Assistant National Security Council Adviser McFarlane; and Assistant Secretary of State Velotes.

Mr. Habib declined to assess blame for the relative slowness of the discussions to date, preferring to say that "the problems that are involved in the agenda (of the Israeli-Lebanese talks) or in the issues that have to be discussed in order to produce the result (of withdrawal) need to be dealt with on an urgent basis, and they can be dealt with on an urgent basis."

Questioned about a news report that the president and high administration officials are dissatisfied with the work of Ambassador Morris Draper, Mr. Habib's deputy, and Velotes, the reporter said the two are referred to as "weak sisters." Habib said he did not detect any dissatisfaction.

"I think the president has demonstrated to me a degree of confidence in the people that are working this problem. I know I have a great deal of confidence in the two people" mentioned in the reports, he said.

Habit in progress in talks

Ambassador Habib—after a meeting with President Reagan, Vice President Bush and Secretary of State Shultz—Monday told reporters that the lack of progress in the talks on withdrawal of Israeli combat units from Lebanon was "a disappointment to all of us."

Mr. Habib added: "It's just taking too long... the United States believes that the matter can be dealt with a great sense of urgency."

Mr. Habib said that was why Mr. Reagan was ordering him to cut short his vacation and return to the Middle East. "One of the things that I will attempt to do,"

Arab mission to visit London on Feb. 7

RABAT (R) — An Arab League mission led by King Hassan of Morocco will visit London next month as a result of a compromise over the participation of a Palestinian delegate, Moroccan officials said Tuesday.

They told Reuters the mission would visit London on Feb. 7, ending several weeks of diplomatic dithering over British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's refusal to receive any Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official.

The visit has been made possible by the inclusion of a West Bank mayor who will represent the PLO but is not a member of its executive committee, the officials said.

The mission was set up by the Arab summit in Fez last September to present a Middle East peace plan to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Its visit to London was called off because of Britain's refusal to accept the inclusion of a PLO delegate.

The mission, drawn from Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Tunisia, visited Paris, Moscow and Peking with a PLO delegate. It also went to Washington, where President

Bomb explodes in Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (R) — A bomb exploded in a garbage can at a Jewish religious shrine Tuesday as demonstrators against the Israeli occupation were reported in several West Bank towns.

Policemen said the bomb was placed at the entrance to Zedekiah's Cave in Jerusalem's old city. A sanitation worker who picked up the bomb was injured.

Police detained 12 Arabs for questioning about the blast, a spokesman said.

Israeli occupation authorities in Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, arrested 10 students at Al Najah University for alleged incitement of anti-Israel demonstrations Monday.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohammad Boucetta received British Ambassador John Cambridge Tuesday after conferring Monday night with Arab diplomats representing committee members, apparently to inform them of the compromise.

Sharon on talks with Jordan

In an interview with Israel Radio, Defence Minister Ariel Sharon Tuesday reiterated Israel's insistence that any talks with Jordan be based on the 1978 Camp David accords.

He said that while Israel would agree to the inclusion of Palestinians from the West Bank or Gaza Strip in a Jordanian delegation, it would continue to reject contacts with members of the PLO or individuals chosen by it.

Mr. Vogel refused to elaborate,

saying he wanted to tell the West German government the news first, but he said Mr. Andropov's remarks had increased his optimism about the current medium-range nuclear missiles.

Mr. Vogel told a press conference the Communist Party chief had given new details about a proposal he made last month to reduce the arsenal of Soviet missiles in Europe to the combined level of similar British and French



Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat embrace each other at Amman Airport upon Mr. Arafat's departure Tuesday (Petra photo).

NEWS

King outlines chances of Mideast peace

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are major excerpts of His Majesty King Hussein's address to Jordanian representatives on Monday. The Jordan Times published part of the King's address on Tuesday but was unable to publish those excerpts that we are publishing below.

Speaking about the visits of the seven-member committee to three permanent member states of the Security Council, the King said the meeting with the French government was "positive and good, and that France supports the Fez summit resolutions and the Arab position." The committee also visited the Soviet Union and explained to the Soviet side the Arab peace plan and the Fez summit resolutions.

"Our friends in China were fully understanding and candid in their support of our position and the Fez summit resolutions," the King commented on the results of his talks with Chinese leaders in Peking.

O King Hussein said he visited Japan because of its weight and influence as well as basic dependence on energy sources in the Arab World and because Japan's future is linked with all the developments that might take place in the Middle East.

In the United States, the King said, he concentrated in his contacts with the American leaders in understanding the reality of the American position "in view of the serious circumstances which our area is passing through."

"So I held a series of meetings with all members of the American leadership and with President Ronald Reagan. My discussions with them were very frank and clear," he said.

King Hussein asserted that he was eager to return from the United States fully understanding the American position in order to assess its dimensions and goals. Therefore, we asked the American leadership about the extent of its ability to achieve a just and honourable peace," he said.

King Hussein pointed out that he came to the conclusion that President Reagan is determined to make the Middle East issue his top priority after which would come a arms balance issue. When President Reagan declared his initiative, he contacted American leaders

ers who were unanimous in supporting him, because this is not his position only, but a position adopted by the American nation.

The King said: "The Americans understood that our visit was exploratory so that we could inform the side with whom we are cooperating and working, namely the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and our partner and companion, and then our brethren in the Arab World.

"The Americans believe that the Camp David agreement recognises the rights of the Palestinians on their land. However, as we see it, by merely talking on it (with Israel), it gives Israel the right to interfere, to reject or accept even at the level of the delegation representing the Arab side."

The King said he asserted that the land which was occupied by force should be liberated and Resolution 242 calls for bartering the land for peace. King Hussein also asserted that the time element is important. "If the Americans were to act following the Arab consensus and coordination, the maximum time for the beginning of their action is the beginning of March 1983, because, after that, they will be busy in other things and will be unable to deal with the issue appropriately."

"At that point and in the judgement of all observers, the possibility of initiating action would be difficult and the opportunity would be missed after that date."

"Resolution 242 is the only domain which we could discuss. We talked about the PLO and the need to have a direct dialogue with the PLO," the King said.

Speaking about Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, King Hussein said he concentrated on the fact that they are "illegal and unacceptable to begin with." He said he explained to the American officials that Resolution 242 includes the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan Heights and Arab Jerusalem. The King said the United States likes to see Jerusalem stay united but it recognises Arab rights in Jerusalem as much as it recognises Arab rights in the rest of the occupied



Arab territories.

The King pointed out that the Jordanian-American talks dealt with the transitional period which "we asked for justifiable reasons."

"They told us that this belongs to the past and that this phase could be cut short. This means, as we understood it, that this phase could be cut short once there is a unified Palestinian-Jordanian position. We told the Americans frankly that we are dealing honourably with our brethren and kinsmen and cannot tell them anything now, but will convey this to them and reply to you as soon as possible."

King Hussein said the invitation is still open to begin, as soon as possible, the implementation of Resolution 242 on all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and to solve all aspects of the Palestinian issue on a just and honourable basis.

King Hussein said he has a message from President Reagan regarding this as well as a commitment by the U.S. administration to throw all its weight in this

respect, because Israel is militarily very strong and U.S. support for it is continuing.

King Hussein said he asked the American officials whether they would be able to continue their efforts because "failure would be more dangerous in this case." He said the officials emphasised that they are "prepared and determined to see the land and rights regained by the people to whom they belong, and that they are also prepared to exert all efforts in this regard and cut the transitional period to reach the final comprehensive solution to shortest possible period."

The Jordanian-American talks also dealt with U.S. arms sales to Jordan, the King said. "During and after Camp David talks, the U.S. maintained that Israel should retain its military superiority over the Arab World. Jordan has rejected this statement because the Arab World has its international right to be strong and capable to face every challenge and every danger and so as long as the problem is solved why then

"We are wondering whether the Arab Nation can fight a war to regain its land and we believe this question cannot be answered now due to the current bitter realities in the Arab World," the King said.

"Jordan, as ever, is determined not to relinquish one inch of Arab land and soil. We, as Jordanians and Palestinians, are aware of what we want and if we still think it is a must, then there should be joint action and responsibility since our destinies are bound together. We must accept together or get out together," the King said.

"I will soon pay visits to Iraq and Saudi Arabia and probably to the Arab Gulf countries. I am in contact with the Fez summit presidency and I will brief all on any new development," the King concluded.

Jordan pledges continued support to efforts aimed at restoring holy places

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has pledged its continued support for efforts aimed at restoring holy places under Israeli occupation.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Hassan Al Momani, who Tuesday received the chairman and members of an Arab committee charged with the task of restoring holy places in Jerusalem, reiterated Jordan's stand in regard to the issue and expressed his appreciation for the committee's efforts to protect and repair the holy sites.

The committee members briefed Mr. Momani on the results of its work and recommendations reached in 1982 and the programmes and future plans for 1983.

One of the major topics which came up during the discussions was the possibility of setting up the committee's headquarters in Amman. Mr. Momani offered to provide temporary offices for the committee until suitable permanent premises are found.

The committee, formed by an Arab housing and reconstruction conference held in Algiers last year, is headed by Arab League Housing Department Director Muirir Wannous.

WFP to assist Jordan with JD 2.8m to check soil erosion

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will receive \$10.3 million (JD 2.8 million) in assistance from the World Food Programme (WFP) in support of the highland development project, according to an agreement to be signed today, Wednesday at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The new phase of the project is expected to reclaim an area of 7,500 hectares of land for planting olive and fruit trees and an area of about 5,200 hectares for planting forest and fodder trees. In addition, about 27,000 cubic metres of cisterns, 35,000 metres of water courses and 300 kilometres of farm tracks and paths and feeder roads will be constructed on self-help basis. Fencing of farms will also be assisted by WFP commodities and by the government in form of cash subsidy. Some 650 nursery workers will benefit from WFP assistance. Government nurseries are to expand production of seedling to ensure sufficient supply for farmers and forestry projects.

This assistance is a continuation of WFP support of the project which aims principally at reclamation of waste land in hilly areas which are severely affected by soil erosion to grow olive and fruit and or forest trees. Soil loss due to erosion is accompanied by loss of productivity and damage to dams due to sedimentation is a serious problem in highland Jordan. WFP assistance provides food for farmers who need it while helping them control and reverse erosion.

The project was evaluated for a third time by a mission sent by WFP to Jordan in 1981. The mission concluded that the project was successful and efficiently implemented, and the technical standard of the soil conservation was generally satisfactory.

A WFP Office spokesman in Amman told the Jordan Times on Tuesday that WFP would give high priority in assistance to control and reverse erosion because food used in this way makes a powerful contribution to development and stimulates community participation and self-reliance. WFP has supported over 20 projects of this kind in the Near East region, he added.

Momani, Hungarian envoy confer

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani received Tuesday the Hungarian charge d'affaires in Amman and discussed with him ways of strengthening relations between the two countries in training Jordanian technicians on managing, operating and maintenance of water treatment plants.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Badran receives Nuseibeh, officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran received at his office Tuesday Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Hazem Nuseibeh. He also received Jordanian Ambassador in Baghdad Fahel Al Tawil and later met with members of the Amman Municipal Council.

Awqaf minister to attend Mecca meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Kameel Al Sharif is scheduled to attend a meeting of the International Higher Council of Mosques due to be held in Mecca from Jan. 15 to Jan. 20. The council will discuss a report of its general secretary, contemporary Islamic issues, a report on the activities of Muslim preachers abroad, and a report on the activities of the permanent centre for the training of preachers in Mecca.

New dairy plant begins production

ZARQA (Petra) — A new dairy factory, owned by the society of owners of conventional dairy plants, began its actual production Tuesday with a capacity of 1,000 kilogrammes per hour. The plant, built at a cost of JD 100,000, is the first of its kind in Zarqa to be established by the society. Its production depends mainly on the milk produced by the society of cattle raisers in Al Dhalil.

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A revival of Japanese pearl business

By Elliot Taylor
Reuter

TOBA, Japan — After years in the doldrums, Japan's cultured pearl farmers are enjoying a business revival, thanks partly to the fashion style set by the Reagan White House.

In the mid-1960s the fashion craze for the mini-skirt was not kind to pearls. Women preferred more adventurous jewellery.

Overproduction and concern about the declining quality of pearls from Japan's increasingly polluted coastline also helped cause a sharp fall in sales.

But now demand is up again thanks to new jewellery fashions, investors seeking an initiation hedge and Ronald and Nancy Reagan's move to the White House, pearl industry spokesmen say.

"Sales in the U.S. have been doing particularly well because of the more formal fashion style represented by President Reagan and

the first lady," said Tadahiko Chihaya of the Mikimoto company.

In 1980, the year President Reagan was elected, the United States replaced West Germany as the largest importer of Japanese cultured pearls. Last year it widened the lead.

Japan's total export sales jumped to \$243.81 million in 1981 from \$144.54 million in 1979, while sales to the U.S. rose sharply to \$80.77 million from \$32.6 million.

But Japan's pearl exporters' association predicts a slight decline in U.S. imports of Japanese pearls this year because of the world recession.

Japan remains the dominant world producer in an industry born here in Picturesque Ago Bay, 360 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, where Kōkichi Mikimoto produced the world's first cultured pearl nearly a century ago.

Mikimoto Inc., founded by the "Pearl King," is the world's largest pearl company, dealing

only in the highest quality pearls.

In the year ending last August it reported its best ever sales figure of 20 billion yen (\$82 million).

Quality pearls are used for jewellery while the less perfect are crushed and used as an ingredient of a cosmetic or medicine.

Ancient tribes believed pearl were drops of dew from the moon. But a long process of nurturing and the application of surgical skills are closer to the reality.

The annual harvest for the calcium-based gems is now underway at Japan's pearl oyster farms, the culmination of a process that can take up to six years from the birth of an oyster to its maturity and opening to reveal a finished pearl.

Mr. Mikimoto, who died in 1954 aged 96, was the first to try to produce a cultured pearl. After several years of failure and near financial ruin, he succeeded in 1893 by inserting a foreign object into the oyster's reproductive organ.

Today the Tama-ire-san (lit-

erally nucleus pushers) who perform the insertion operation are highly skilled and respected professionals, applying a scalpel with the precision of a surgeon.

The nucleus, placed in a three or four-year-old oyster, stimulates secretion of a substance which forms around the nucleus to produce the finished pearl.

Japanese pearl farmers once relied on mussel shell from China to make the nucleus, but now import it from the Mississippi and Tennessee river valleys in the U.S.

After the insertion operation the oyster is suspended in the sea for several years. Here it is in danger from rough seas and a plankton which turns the sea red and which can destroy the oyster crop.

The rough seas, sometimes whipped up by typhoons, provide occasional work for the diminishing number of ama, women divers once essential to the industry but now made largely redundant by more controlled farming methods.

464's design — new dimension to luxury cruise

By William MacLean
Reuter

LONDON — Britain's P and O shipping line has commissioned a liner of revolutionary design that will bring a new dimension to luxury cruises.

It plans to banish the days when only a few first-class passengers could afford a sea view while the rest had cabins without portholes, often down in the bowels of the ship.

A new 40,000-ton ship being built for P and O in Finland will have 600 passenger cabins, each with a full picture window looking out over the sea.

P and O boast that the liner, costing about £80 million (\$130 million), will be the biggest and most technically advanced purpose-built cruise ship in the world and they hope to have it plying Caribbean and Pacific waters in 1984.

The new ship will continue a British tradition of luxury ocean liners including the Cunard Line's Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, which were the toast of transatlantic travellers.

The Majestic Liners which linked Europe with North America have fallen on hard times since the advent of jet travel.

Shipping lines have turned to luxury cruises to attract wealthy tourists, concentrating on voyages around the Mediterranean and Caribbean and the exotic Pacific Islands.

Today the cruise market is just as competitive as the Trans-Atlantic airline business and P and O hopes to get the edge on rivals by offering sheer opulence.

Accordingly Finnish ship-builders Waertsilae are providing numerous luxuries on the ship, which will accommodate 1,260 passengers.

The liner — at this stage codenamed 464 — will have four swimming pools, a gymnasium, casino, night club, cinema and discotheque.

The ship has sleek, modern lines with the raked bulkheads of the superstructure arranged to give an attractive pyramid effect fore and aft.

All the cabins will have their own bathroom, double bed, multi-channel television, individual temperature control, and 152 of the best will also have a private balcony.

To give a generous view of the sea from the cabins, Waertsilae will build the passenger accommodation in the superstructure and relegate the entertainment and dining rooms to the hull beneath the public rooms.

This is a departure in the design of cruise ships, where passenger cabins are usually housed in the hull beneath the public rooms.

P and O sees North America as the largest and fastest-growing cruise market and will operate the new liner from Los Angeles on the west coast of the United States.

The P and O line had a turnover of \$160 million last year from North American cruises.

The new ship will join three other liners operated by Princess Cruises, P and O's Los Angeles-based subsidiary, which sail to the Caribbean, Mexican Riviera, Alaska, Hawaii and other Pacific

islands.

The world's biggest passenger liner, the 70,200-ton Norway, now paying its way as a cruise ship in the Caribbean.

Formerly The France, it was once the pride of the French merchant navy as it plied the Atlantic but after a few years in mothballs it returned to service with a Norwegian cruise firm.

Britain's two largest liners, the 67,000-ton Queen Elizabeth II and the 45,000-ton Canberra, are also competing for lucrative cruise trade.

They did, however, serve briefly in a different role earlier this year — as trooperships.

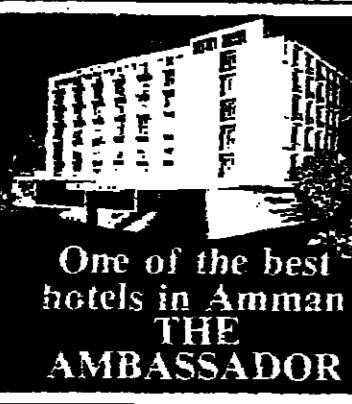
The two ships were requisitioned by the British government to rush soldiers to the South Atlantic when Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands last April.

The Canberra, P and O's flagship, survived several bombing attacks by Argentine aircraft.

Both ships were quickly refitted and put back to sea as leisure cruise liners.

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Israel on the defensive

U.S. President Reagan's Sept. 1 proposals for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict, coupled with a strong positive response to them from Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), have put Israel on the defensive for the first time in many years. Considering that the Arabs invariably had to defend themselves, and their rights, against Israel and Western bias, the present situation represents by far a large tactical improvement.

Strategic goals cannot be achieved without good tactics. If Arab strategy is based on self-strength to attain peace and prosperity for our own people and humanity, there is no reason why the outcome cannot be successful. Today, not only the Arab World but almost all other nations believe that successive Israeli military offensives and present policies have only endangered world peace and this region's security. All of them, including the United States this time, are willing to throw their weight behind finding a Middle East settlement in which chances for stability and progress in the whole world can improve.

This is then an opportune moment for us to act: Israel can exist in peace if Palestinian

rights are restored and occupied Arab territories are returned to their rightful owners. Where do we go from here? It is true that if Israel is on the defensive that does not mean it will give up its "historical" claims to the West Bank and withdraw its army from the rest of the occupied territories. But because there appears to be more determination on the part of everybody else, mainly the other two essential players the Arabs and the Americans, to move forward the cause of peace, Israel has little choice but to heed the voice of reason or else hear the echo of its own sound in the wilderness.

Great progress made by the PLO and Jordan towards reaching a common position, being always fully agreed on the unity of purpose, is expected to be formalised into a concrete formula for entering peace negotiations to recover the occupied territories, when the Palestine National Council meets next month. The United States insists it is very serious and determined to see to it that Israel withdraws from those territories in return for peace. The world, and us, will be awaiting what other choices Israel will soon have.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Jordanian-Palestinian joint march is the answer

His Majesty King Hussein Monday met with the political, official, popular and trade union bodies in the country to explain the Middle East situation in light of the developments in the area and the efforts which the King made on the international level as well as joint Jordanian-Palestinian action to crystallise the future relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people who are linked together with strong ties of history and common goals.

What the King said means that the responsibility we are facing is a joint one, not restricted to the leadership, but extends to include the Jordanian and Palestinian people, particularly the political, official, popular and trade union bodies.

Consequently, this joint responsibility could be shouldered in a better way through Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion which is the force capable of following the path of peace. This means that the Jordanian and Palestinian people are capable of waging the battle of peace in the same strength they

Al Dustour: Jordanian-Palestinian future is one

King Hussein's address to the political, popular, official and trade union bodies was distinctly marked with confidence and frankness. He reviewed the situation in the Arab World in the aftermath of the visits of the seven-member Arab peace committee and then his visits to Japan and the United States.

The King spoke in detail about the unique Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, the joint suffering and steadfastness and sacrifices which the two people made on the frontline of defence.

King Hussein was eager to assert, as he always did, the uniqueness of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, because the future of the Jordanian and Palestinian people is one, and this should be decided by the two people. Consequently, no other side should be involved in deciding this relationship.

Speaking about the sufferings of our kinsmen in

waged war. Undoubtedly, our people realise the burden of the war for peace which needs alertness and readiness to cope with all eventualities.

The phase of intensive action which followed the Arab peace plan approved by the Fez summit should continue, particularly that Israel seeks to waste time and abort all efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the area so that it could devour more usurped Palestinian lands and liquidate the Palestinian cause.

Jordan, which is the last line of defence of the Arab Nation, should prompt the Arabs to keep in mind their pan-Arab commitments and realise that the strength of this line constitutes their own security and power which are indispensable for achieving the just peace in the area.

The Jordanian-Palestinian concept of peace is completely different than the concept of capitulation. Furthermore, the Jordanian-Palestinian insistence on the joint march is final and there can be no going back on it.

the occupied territories, the King called on all the Arabs to tackle the situation in a rational way in order to regain the Arab lands and to eliminate the suffering of the occupied territories' residents.

The King's speech reflected optimism that our generation will achieve the maximum of what is required to be done, namely the liberation of the occupied Arab territories. The American administration has thrown all its weight behind the Reagan initiative to achieve peace in the area.

Nevertheless, the creation of a healthy situation in the Arab World remains the only guarantee to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the area, and this would help Washington go ahead with carrying out its promises, namely an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, which means saving this Arab land from the Israeli military occupation.

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Speaking about the sufferings of our kinsmen in

EEC shifts trade and aid policy

By Peter Gumbel
Reuter

BRUSSELS — The European Community is considering proposals for a fundamental shift in developed countries' trade and aid policies towards the Third World with the aim of halting a serious jump in world commerce. A recently-approved document by the Common Market's executive commission urges a tougher approach towards the faster developing countries, such as South Korea, which should, it says, take on more responsibility for their poorer neighbours.

At the same time it calls for a review of international agreements covering commodity prices, and stricter conditions for aid to third World countries to make it more effective. Drawn up by development experts, the report outlines a European negotiating stance for a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) next summer.

It paints a grim picture of trade relations with the Third World, warning of political instability there unless something is done to stop the growing poverty of many developing countries which has been a major factor in the decline in trade levels. Its proposals, though at this stage sketched out only and not yet approved by the Community governments, aim to change the pattern of world commerce, community officials

say. The document stresses the need for better international cooperation to overcome the acute economic problems facing developing nations. Economic recession in industrialised countries, which has led to creeping protectionism, plus a slump in commodity prices and high U.S. interest rates have taken their toll on the export earnings of non-oil producing Third World nations.

The difficulties have been worsened by a growing inability to repay debts which has caused severe strains on the world's financial system and could still bring it to the brink of collapse, the report says. It calls the UNCTAD session, due to take place in Belgrade next June, the most important meeting for North-South cooperation in 1983. "The conference comes at a moment when the value of world trade has fallen from one year to the next for the first time since the 1930s," it says. For numerous Third World nations, the crisis threatens the stability of their societies and even the survival of their people, it warns.

Impot restrictions

The problems must be resolved mainly by the major Western economic powers, but trade with developing countries plays an important role, the report says. Little regard has been paid to the growth of newly industrialised countries such as South Korea and

SCIENCE & INDUSTRY By Dr. Awn Rifai

Securing professional labour for industry

Industrial concerns in Jordan were established at different times and in various sizes depending on the number of employees, size of the capital, equipment, and the production rate. Thus, an examination of the trends underlying the number, qualifications, and skill of the employees is not a straightforward task, although many symptoms can be deduced from the surveys that have been carried out.

Manufacturing industries usually create a large number of jobs, but at the same time require trained manpower. This type of industry shows a spectrum of employment variations and has a better chance than e.g. heavy industry to coincide with the social structure and to be the venue for the adaptation of technologies. Nevertheless, the scattered activities and the decentralised locations which has resulted due to this variation of staff bears some negative results, especially when it comes to the organisation of training.

A further problem experienced in Jordan is that of labour migration, which has taken several forms. First,

there is the outflow of workers to other countries and the need for their replacement by imported manpower. Then, there is the migration from one town or location to another inside the country, for better and more comfortable facilities.

Finally, there has been a flow of workers from one sector of industry to another from the high productivity to the low productivity sector, from agriculture to industry, and from industry to services.

Coupled with these phenomena are the usual personal and financial aspects that influence one's choice of a career. Such a situation has rendered the labour market too volatile and inconsistent to be relied upon when formulating long-term industrialisation plans.

The labour contributes to the industrial inputs through the size of its force, the hours of employment, the level of skill, and the degree of its spatial and occupational mobility. The industrial management combines the other inputs to attain the ultimate objectives. The recruitment of labour, may it

Israel totally depends upon U.S. financial beneficence

By Thomas R. Stauffer

Israel's economic weakness has unexpectedly emerged as the greatest threat to its ambitions, and the debate now developing in Washington over the level of U.S. aid may prove critical. Israel's dependence upon U.S. financial beneficence is now total, at a time when its own reputation is tarnished, its economy tottering on insolvency, and the U.S. government is cutting back on welfare and social programmes at home.

Israel's financial malaise is much worse than envisaged, and even worse than reported by its ministry of finance in its recent representations to Washington underlying its requests for still further increases in U.S. aid. Its actual foreign exchange reserves were close to zero by later summer — amounting to less than \$400 million, the equivalent of less than ten days' worth of imports. Today the net reserves are even lower, probably already negative, and the officially reported reserves figure of over \$3 billion is window-dressing.

Only an increase in U.S. aid from the present official level of \$2.2 billion can stave off default on the debt, because without more cash from the U.S. Israel's ability to service more than \$20 billion in foreign debts is all but impossible. U.S. aid is needed not merely to cover the interest and amortisation of debt due to the U.S. but also to persuade the commercial banks, to which Israel has gross liabilities of \$8-10 billion, to continue rolling over Israel's very large short-term indebtedness.

The Israelis must raise at least \$8 million in new resources this year. The balance of payments deficit is at least \$5 billion, up \$1 billion from last year. Another \$1.7 billion must be repaid from the officially recorded long-term debt, and at least another \$2 billion must be refinanced from the outstanding short-term debt.

However, without an increase in U.S. aid, an additional \$4.5 billion may be needed, over and above the \$8 billion noted above. At any hint of difficulty in the flow of U.S. aid, Israel's creditors among the commercial banks would be likely to trim drastically the available short-term credit by a further \$2-3 billion, and most of the \$2 billion in nominally long-term Israeli bonds which are subject to redemption on 90 days' notice.

The commercial banks are increasingly uncomfortable about their dangerous exposure in Israel — the Israeli banks have borrowed some \$9 billion abroad, as loans, placements, or other short-term deposits, against which they maintain only about \$6 billion in deposits, leaving a net shortfall of \$3 billion for which they are in hock largely to U.S. banks. Since Israel cannot service existing conventional debt without U.S. aid, it would take further massive pressure from the American Jewish community to prevent American

banks from protecting themselves by renewing fewer and fewer of these short-term loans when they come due.

Complainant bankers

Both the New York state and the federal banking authorities have thus far proved extraordinarily complaisant. Federal and state regulations decree Israeli bonds to be acceptable as reserve assets, giving an official imprimatur to securities which otherwise are not investment grade. Both have accepted that U.S.-domiciled subsidiaries or branches of Israeli banks transfer large placements of U.S.-insured deposits back to Israel. Any careful credit risk review could trigger withdrawal of major parts of these funds.

Israel must increase the ante from the U.S. this year, not merely to meet its increased current deficit but also to preserve the formal appearances of solvency — the U.S. aid exercises a multiplier effect, since without more such assistance, the \$3 billion in short-term net debt could dry up within a few months, as the ever more skittish and nervous commercial banks fail to roll over the already dangerous accumulation of short-term accommodations.

Israel's credit standing, as well as its cash balance, now hinges totally upon the flow of U.S. aid. Its known debts aggregate to some \$20 billion, or \$6,000 per Israeli capita, a debt burden dwarfing that of any of the other prominently indebted states such as Brazil or Mexico. Furthermore, its credit-worthiness is also seriously compromised by the fact that its export industries themselves depend heavily upon export subsidies and other subventions, which are in turn financed by aid, compounding the vicious circle of economic dependence. The added value in exports is now less than the annual debt service — so that aid must pay for most of the country's imports, plus the residual on debt service, one indicator of why the commercial banks look implicitly to the U.S. as ultimate guarantor of Israel's solvency.

The forthcoming deliberations in the U.S. over increased aid for Israel are thus critical and particularly sensitive because Israel's newest demands coincide with painfully publicised cutbacks by the Reagan administration in its outlays for Americans. The Israeli lobby will need to muster its forces, for opposition among black groups is already manifest; the Senate foreign affairs committee, stimulated by Senator Cranston, has proposed unilaterally an aid increase of some \$400 million, but Congress itself has yet to act.

Dr. Stauffer, formerly a research fellow of Harvard University, presently visiting professor at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna.

— From Middle East International

UNIFIL's role under review

By Michael Littlejohns
Reuters

taking into account the experience gained and looking at the geographical distribution and the economic importance of the products," it says. Countries most dependent on exports of one or more commodity should be encouraged to diversify, even if this means compensating them for loss of export earnings.

Structural change
For the poorest countries which have enjoyed too many trade concessions for too long, it adds, Western Europe wants to slow the flood of cheap manufactured goods such as textiles from predominantly Asian countries which it believes are damaging its own recession-hit industries.

But moves by Community governments, especially France, to impose tough import restrictions have been viewed with caution by the Commission, banting to overcome protectionism. The report urges that these countries should instead be fully integrated into the world's trading system, with greater responsibility for their poorer neighbours and an opening of their markets to the West.

The report also proposes a tough review of trade with countries relying heavily on exports of raw materials and those depending to a great extent on foreign development assistance.

Most international commodity agreements between producing and consuming countries have so far failed to achieve their principal aim of stabilising prices, the document says. Prospects for prices of coffee, tea, cocoa and sugar appear the most gloomy, it adds. Huge over-supply has unsettled the markets, and if this imbalance continues even the international partners will be unable to prevent prices falling in real terms.

"Perhaps the time has come... to re-examine the contents and mechanisms of these agreements," the report says. Prospects for prices of coffee, tea, cocoa and sugar appear the most gloomy, it adds. Huge over-supply has unsettled the markets, and if this imbalance continues even the international partners will be unable to prevent prices falling in real terms.

According to one report, the government of President Amin Gemayel would like the 7,000-man force to have a free rein throughout the country. The Security Council is likely to renew at least temporarily UNIFIL's mandate but Israel has said for its part

that the force, on duty in Lebanon since 1978, has outlived its usefulness.

Mr. Urquhart arrived in Beirut last Thursday to talk to Lebanese, Israeli and Syrian government representatives about how to strengthen UNIFIL's role. But Israel, which now calls the time in southern Lebanon following its June invasion to drive out Palestinian commandos, has already said security in the area should be directly negotiated between the Israeli and Lebanese governments.

The topic is highly sensitive.

Israel and Lebanon are currently negotiating an agenda for talks on the withdrawal of Israeli troops who leapfrogged the UNIFIL lines last summer during their advance on Beirut. The U.N. force appeared woefully inadequate to prevent the attack.

Reuter correspondent Patrick Worsnip reports from Beirut that UNIFIL has been criticised by Palestinians and Lebanese leftists who said the force did not lift a finger to stop the Israeli invasion last summer.

No mandate

UNIFIL replied that it was neither mandated nor equipped to do so. The force, made up of soldiers from Fiji, Sweden, Finland, Ghana, France, Senegal, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and Nigeria, complains that since the invasion it has been shackled by the Israelis.

The presence of the Israeli-backed border militia of major Saad Haddad, has meant that UNIFIL has never been able to extend Lebanese government authority up to the Lebanon-Israeli border, as it was mandated to do. UNIFIL's complaints have received high-level support. The U.N. secretary general said in his latest report to the Security Council that Israeli forces have restricted UNIFIL's freedom of movement and prevented the force from re-establishing normal contacts with Lebanese authorities in Beirut. UNIFIL's Irish commander, Lieutenant-General William Callaghan, told the Beirut English-language weekly Monday Morning on Dec. 19: "UNIFIL is now not allowed to fly its helicopters freely. It is not allowed to travel to Beirut except in convoy, and it cannot visit Tyre or Zahran or Sidon unless it is accompanied by liaison officers." All these places are outside the UNIFIL zone. He said that though UNIFIL's mandate was extended last June to let it give humanitarian assistance to Tyre, the Israelis had forbidden it to do so, even in response to specific requests from the Lebanese authorities. The Israelis responded by accusing UNIFIL of trying to expand its area — a charge UNIFIL denies — and has

DR. AWN RIFAI

SPORTS**Bayern's midfield general to quit at end of season**

BONN (R) — Paul Breitner, the architect of so many West German soccer triumphs, said Tuesday he will finish his 13-year career at the end of this season.

The 31-year-old fullback turned midfielder, scorer in West Germany's 2-1 triumph over the Netherlands in the 1974 World Cup final and in last year's 3-1 defeat by Italy, won a handful of domestic and European medals with Bayern Munich and Real Madrid.

"I'm definitely giving up at the end of this season... it's time Bayern found a new midfield general," said Breitner.

West Germany's 1980 "Footballer of the Year" has tired of the stress and injuries which led him finally to give up international football after the disappointment in Spain last summer.

Breitner took part in West Germany's 1972 European Championship win after making an immediate impact with Bayern Munich as an attacking fullback. He was to win a total of 48 caps with his career peaking in the 1974 World Cup win.

But Breitner cast a long shadow over West Germany's 1974 celebrations by immediately announcing that he was pulling out of international soccer along with Gerd "Bomber" Mueller and Wolfgang Overath.

He moved to Real Madrid the same year but after winning two Spanish League Championship medals Breitner returned to the

Bundesliga in 1977 with Eintracht Braunschweig.

For once, however, Breitner was unsuccessful and he rejoined Bayern the following season.

In Bayern colours he collected a major trophy every year — with the exception of 1979 — winning one European Cup, five League titles and two West German cups.

He was persuaded to return to the international scene after West Germany's 1980 European Championship victory but his deadly partnership with club colleague Karl-Heinz Rummenigge never really worked in the national team and many players were unsettled by the abrasive Breitner.

This hard edge has meant he has never become an idol like "Kaiser" Franz Beckenbauer. Breitner's public image has too often been that of an argumentative man who cares little for the fans or for the good of the game.

Sentimental fans will, however, rue Breitner's decision as he is the last Bundesliga survivor of the 1974 World Cup win.

"I'm an outsider, the one they love to hate and I've used it to the full... but I am simply not prepared to be everyone's fool anymore."

26 team to tackle Chinese peaks

PEKING (R) — Twenty-six foreign climbing teams will tackle 11 Chinese peaks this year, with six teams attacking Mount Everest from its forbidding north face, the Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA) announced Tuesday.

Association Vice-President Shi Zhanjun said the teams are from Australia, Britain, Canada, Chile, France, Italy, Japan, Nepal, Spain, West Germany, the United States and Hong Kong.

Five teams will tackle Everest from Tibet in spring or autumn and a Japanese team will try to become the first by that route in winter. Others will bid for the summit of K-2, the world's second highest peak, and nine other mountains.

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Navratilova too powerful for Hanika in Maryland Open

LANDOVER, Maryland (R) — Martina Navratilova produced another awesome display of power tennis to crush West German Sylvia Hanika 6-1, 6-1 in the final of the Maryland Open Monday night.

Navratilova, playing as though she had another appointment to keep, raced through the match in 40 minutes to lift the winner's cheque worth \$28,000.

The world's number one, winner of the French and Wimbledon titles last year, did not drop a set in five matches in this tournament and goes straight back into action on Wednesday in the Houston Championship, in which she is top seed.

To add to her list of honours, Navratilova has been named the top-ranking women's tennis player in the United States for 1982 by the United States Tennis Association.

U.S. Open Champion Chris Evert Lloyd, number one in 1981, was ranked second for 1982 and Andrea Jaeger improved from fourth to third.

Tracy Austin has dropped to fourth place, followed by Pam Shriver, Bettina Bunge, Barbara Potter, Billie Jean King, Anne Smith and Zina Garrison.

But the best remembered display of this confidence was seen during the 1974 World Cup final.

West Germany, 1-0 down to the Dutch, were awarded a penalty and Breitner strode up the pitch, took the ball before the regular penalty-taker Uli Hoeneß could intervene, placed it on the spot and hammered it past Jan Jongbloed.

But in later years this confidence increasingly turned to arrogance both towards referees and other less-gifted players. Many observers saw his behaviour in last year's World Cup personifying the poor attitude of the whole West German team.

Sentimental fans will, however, rue Breitner's decision as he is the last Bundesliga survivor of the 1974 World Cup win.

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England, anxious to repair their damaged pride after the 2-1 defeat in the recently completed test series against the Australians, seemed to be on their way to victory at 13) for four in reply to Australia's total of 180.

But the loss of Allan Lamb, top scorer with 49, triggered an all too familiar collapse which saw the last six wickets tumble for 18 runs.

The turnaround in fortunes was rough justice on the England

W.German Pfaff makes mockery of world rankings

HOUSTON (R) — West German Eva Pfaff made a mockery of the world rankings when she beat fifth-seeded American Barbara Potter 1-6, 7-5, 6-2 in the first round of the Houston women's tennis tournament Monday night.

Pfaff, ranked 35th in the world, dropped her serve three times in the first set but only once in the second.

Potter, 27 places above Pfaff on the computer, said the crucial point was an easy volley she missed at break point in the final game of the second set.

"The volley was a very costly point for me," she said. "I took my eye off the ball. At that point, she was fighting to stay in the match.

You can't afford to miss those kind of shots."

Sixth-seeded defending champion Bettina Bunge, a West German who lives in the United States, needed only 47 minutes to eliminate Michaela Pazirova of Czechoslovakia 6-2, 6-1 in their first round match.

Other first round results (U.S. unless stated): Peanut Lowrie beat Sabina Simmonds 5-7, 6-2, 6-3. Joanne Russell beat Leigh Thompson 7-5, 7-6. Wendy White beat Andrea Temesvari (Hungary) 5-7, 6-3, 6-4. Alycia Moulton beat Kathleen Cuumings 6-2, 6-2. Marcella Mesker beat Yvonne Vermaak (South Africa) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Romanian soccer team to play Ramtha

AMMAN (J.T.) — During a meeting of the management of the Ramtha and Al Jazireh sports clubs, Friday, Feb. 4 was fixed as the date for the match between the Ramtha football club with Al Jazireh's guest team—the Romanian team Asia Armată, president of Al Jazireh club Amer Al Mutti said.

On the other hand, the national soccer team coach Mr. Anthony Bamfield said he would like to have the team play with the Romanian team early in February.

Al Wihdat team will play with the Romanian team but the date has not yet been fixed. Contacts are now underway between the management of Al Wihdat and Al Jazireh to fix the date.

Police officers complete judo training course

AMMAN (Petra) — Two groups of Judo and tae kwon do were graduated on Tuesday under the patronage of the public security director at the police officers training institute. Some 50 men of the Public Security Directorate participated in the two training courses which lasted six months.

The tailenders, who have helped England out of many crises in the past, failed to come up with the goods Tuesday.

Afterwards Australian skipper Kim Hughes said: "We got out of jail tonight. We made mistakes with our early bowling and batting and I did not think we had enough runs on the board."

His England counterpart Bob Willis said that as the most experienced one-day side in cricket the victory target of three-and-a-half runs an over should "have been a doddle."

"If we had been offered 181 to chase when the match started we would have settled for that," he added.

At the end of the ceremony, the assistant public security director for administrative police affairs, who deputised for the public security director, handed over the belts to the graduates and tokens awards to the excelling graduates.

England batting collapses against Australia in triangle series

SYDNEY (R) — Another England batting collapse under the Sydney floodlights gave Australia their second victory in the triangular one-day cricket series Tuesday.

England, anxious to repair their damaged pride after the 2-1 defeat in the recently completed test series against the Australians, seemed to be on their way to victory at 13) for four in reply to Australia's total of 180.

But the loss of Allan Lamb, top scorer with 49, triggered an all too familiar collapse which saw the last six wickets tumble for 18 runs.

The turnaround in fortunes was rough justice on the England

bowlers, particularly off spinners Geoff Miller and Vic Marks. They kept such a tight rein on the Australian batsmen that several were out in a desperate bid to force a draw.

The pair conceded a total of only 55 runs from 20 overs, Miller finishing with three for 28 and Marks two for 27.

Australian openers Kepler Wessels and John Dyson, who put on 154 in the opening match of the competition against New Zealand on Sunday, briefly threatened to carry on when they left off in Melbourne.

But with 26 on the board Wessels was bowled by Norman Cowans and in the next few minutes England struck two more vital blows by capturing the wickets of Greg Chappell and Kim Hughes.

Dyson went on to partner David Hookes (11) and Allan Border (22) in two important stands of 41. However, Marks denied him a

over spell.

But while Lamp was going well England still seemed the more likely winners.

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ECONOMY

U.S., EEC open talks

WASHINGTON (R) — European Community and U.S. officials hope to resolve agricultural disputes and avert a threatened trade war when they open three days of talks Tuesday.

Both sides have recently sought to play down differences over large export subsidies which U.S. farming interests say the 10-nation Community is using to gain unfair access to world markets.

The Community's executive commission said in a statement last week the aim of the Washington negotiations was to relax trade tensions and tone down rhetoric.

U.S. government and trade officials, meanwhile, have begun to talk of averting a trade war after warning in the autumn of retaliation against European subsidies on items such as wheat, flour, pasta, poultry, sugar, canned fruit and raisins.

U.S. officials are expected to point in the talks to their initiatives to decrease American grain stocks this year through various acreage reduction programmes.

European officials have said they will use the talks — the first high-level discussions since a conference a month ago in Brussels — to stress plans for a smaller increase in farm support prices in 1983 as a sign that they are trying to solve the trade problem.

The Community is headed by the commission's director-general for agriculture, Mr. Claude Villain, and the U.S. side

by deputy trade representative Mr. David MacDonald.

Meanwhile, a senior European Community official will meet Japanese authorities later this week to discuss ways to ease trade problems between Japan and the Community, a foreign ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Mr. Rolf Mohler, a Community commission director dealing with industrial restructuring, will meet foreign ministry and international trade and industry ministry officials.

The spokesman said it was not known what subjects would be taken up by Mr. Mohler until he arrived in Tokyo Wednesday.

But government sources said he was expected to call on Japan to voluntarily curb exports to the Community of cars, televisions, video-taperecorders, motorcycles and automated machine tools and cut its huge trade surplus.

His visit follows a tour of five Common Market capitals early this month by Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe who returned home bearing new warnings of protectionist trends against Japanese exports.

The foreign ministry spokesman said another senior Common Market official would visit Tokyo from Jan. 25.

Mr. Abe sought to assure government leaders in Brussels, Bonn, London, Paris and Rome that Japan was taking steps to open its markets to more imports.

Gulf oil officials intensify contacts

KUWAIT (R) — Saudi Arabian oil minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani paid a brief visit to Kuwait Tuesday in the latest of a series of contacts among Gulf oil producers.

Sheikh Yamani delivered a letter from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to the Emir of Kuwait, the Kuwait News Agency said. It gave no other details.

Kuwait's oil minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah met King Fahd in Riyadh two days ago and United Arab Emirates (UAE) oil minister Mana Said Al Otaiba is in Oman to discuss the world oil market situation with Sultan Qaboos Bin Said.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the UAE are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, together with Bahrain and Qatar. The council's oil ministers were due to meet last Saturday in Bahrain but the meeting was postponed.

Saudi Arabia, the largest pro-

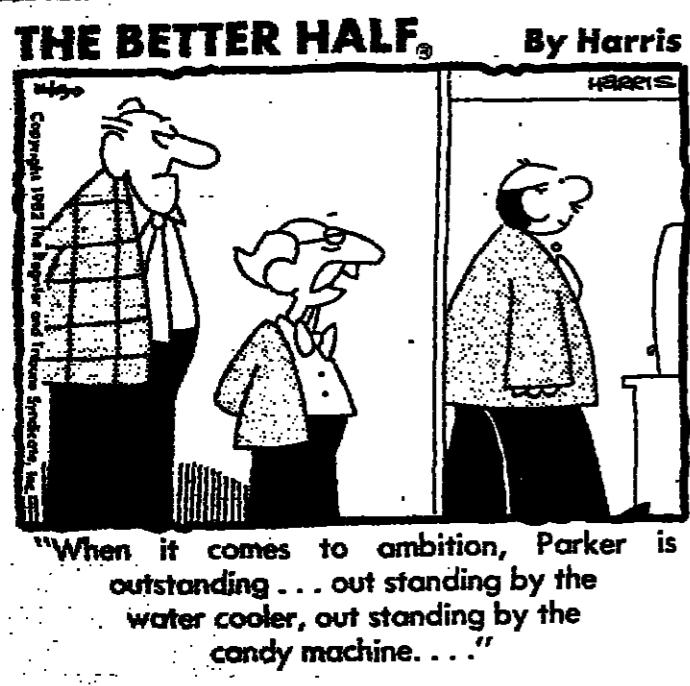
ducer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has been under pressure from its U.S. partners in the Aramco consortium to cut its \$34 a barrel marker price.

Saudi Arabia has so far resisted the pressure and sources close to the Saudis say Riyadh would only take a decision to cut the price after consultation with its Gulf Council partners, possible at a future meeting of their oil ministers.

The \$34 price is under pressure because of a continuing world oil glut that has slashed demand for OPEC oil.

Indonesian oil minister Dr. Subroto meanwhile predicted the world price of oil would fluctuate erratically at least until 1985, Indonesia's Antara news agency said Tuesday.

It quoted him as saying in an interview that basic world uncertainties would continue to influence oil prices for two more years.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi cement output rises

RIYADH (OPECNA) — Saudi Arabia's cement production last year increased to 5.7 million tonnes from 1.8 million in 1978, mainly due to the efforts of the Saudi Industrial Development Fund. Deputy Industry Minister Fouad Farsi said here. The fund has injected \$580 million into the industry over the last six years in the form of capital loans.

Australia to aid UAE development

AL AIN, Abu Dhabi (OPECNA) — Australian Agriculture Minister Brown Chatterton said here his country was ready to provide the UAE with technology and expertise to boost its agricultural development.

U.S. considers imposing new tax

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration, struggling to reduce huge federal budget deficits, is considering a plan to raise \$50 billion by imposing a tax on consumer spending, administration sources said Monday.

Iran to strengthen ties with Syria

TEHRAN (OPECNA) — Iranian Commerce Minister Habibollah Asgar Owali Mosslemi left here Monday at the head of a commercial delegation for a five-day visit to Syria and Yugoslavia. He said talks with Syria would deal with expanding bilateral trade.

De Beers expects bigger upturn

LONDON (R) — De Beers Consolidated Mines, the world's largest diamond producer, Monday gave an optimistic report on the immediate future of the diamond industry which has suffered in recent years because of the worldwide recession. A spokesman for De Beers said that sales of rough gems and industrial diamonds had increased in the second half of 1982, compared with the year before, and that officials expected a bigger upturn in the coming six months.

Sotheby's announces £3.1m loss

LONDON (R) — Sotheby's, the international auction house, Monday announced its first ever annual trading loss of £3.06 million (\$4.95 million). The firm made a profit of more than £7 million (\$11 million) in the previous year. It blamed the reversal on a sharp reduction in sales volume and the absence of any large art collections being sold at auction.

Bankers to decide on new institute

WASHINGTON (R) — Bankers from North America, Europe and Japan met privately Monday to decide whether there should be a new international institute to monitor Third World debt problems before they reach crisis proportions. There was no official comment after the first of two days of meetings between representatives of banks in 35 Western countries.

Inflation in Argentina soars

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's cost of living index rose 10.6 per cent in December, bringing inflation in 1982 to 209.7 per cent, the highest rate since 1975, government figures show. The increase for 1981 was 131.1 per cent, after 87.6 per cent in 1980, according to the statistics. In 1975, the cost of living rose by a record 334.5 per cent.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Sterling nears record low

LONDON (R) — Sterling fell a further two cents against the dollar Tuesday, bringing it close to its record low and fuelling fears that Britain may be forced to raise interest rates to stem the decline.

The pound, traded against the U.S. dollar at 1.5680 in London, a loss of over four cents since Friday. It hit a record low of around \$1.56 in October 1976.

It also fell Tuesday against other major currencies, notably the Japanese yen and West German mark, with its trade-weighted index based on currencies of major trading partners down to 80.7 points on an index of 100 compared to 83.9 on Dec. 31.

In Frankfurt, the pound stood at a four-year low.

Sterling has lost more than three per cent in value so far this year and 12 per cent since a run on the pound started last November. It continues to weaken despite

support buying on foreign exchanges by the Bank of England, dealers noted.

British interest rates have come down gradually over the past 15 months to around 10 per cent from 16 per cent as the Conservative government made progress in its battle to reduce inflation.

Dealers partly blamed uncertainty over the timing of the next general election, due this year or early in 1984, for pushing down sterling following a Labour opposition warning that a Labour government will devalue the currency.

A strong pound helps Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's domestic policy by holding down prices and the Bank of England has pumped over £1 billion (\$1.6 billion) in to support buying of the pound since Nov. 1.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 12, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It is important today and tonight that you don't neglect routine matters. Also, concentrate on working out a specific plan that will give you many benefits in the future.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Put aside recreation for now and engage in career matters that are important to your welfare. Be careful in travel.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Take steps to improve your appearance and make a fine impression on others. Bring your finest talents to the fore.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Have talks with close ties concerning new plans and come to the right decisions. Don't neglect business matters.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Go over any reports carefully and be sure they are correct. Be more cooperative with others.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) New ideas you have can be made more practical if you analyze them accurately. The evening is best spent at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study your appearance and know where to make the right improvements. Be sure not to lose your temper with anyone today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make changes in your surroundings and gain added comfort. Be more thoughtful of family members. Use care in motion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Long talks with friends bring about improved arrangements for the future. Diplomacy is important at this time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Make sure you keep the promises you have made and handle all duties. Take time for entertainment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your hunches are accurate now so be sure to follow them. Engage in favorite hobby. Be more encouraging to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Know what your responsibilities are and how best to handle them. Avoid one who is a troublemaker.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Good day to confer with associates and clear up any possible misunderstanding. Improve your surroundings.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will possess much ability and will have the stamina to work long hours on a project which will lead to success. One who will abide by the ethical standards in life. Ideal family life in this chart.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities and government bonds fell sharply in fairly active trading as sterling tumbled to near record lows against the dollar, dealers said.

Sterling's trade weighted index measured against a basket of currencies fell a whole point to 80.6 and the possible effects on interest rates and inflation left the market highly nervous.

Government bonds were more than two points down in places though the inflation fears fuelled further demand for bonds linked to the retail price index and they firms up to one point. Among leading equities Blue Circle lost 12p and Plessey was down 14p. The F.T. index at 1500 Tuesday was down 8.5 at 605.2.

Bearish comment on retail trading hit stores with Boots 10p down at 230, Marks and Spencer shed 8p to 211 but UDS, the subject of a bid by Bassishaw, advanced 1p to 100. Banks lost as much as 7p while ICI ended 4p down at 350.

Anderson Strathclyde ended 11p down at 159 on its attempt to overturn the court's government decision to allow Charter Consolidated's bid.

Gold shares turned mixed as bullion failed to hold above \$490, dealers said. Platinums were firm with advances ranging to 50p. De Beers ended five cents higher at 725 in quiet active trading after Monday's second half diamond sales figures,

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.5725-37	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2247-50	West German marks	Dutch guilders
	2.3362-72	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
	2.5780-90	French francs	Italian lire
	1.9180-95	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
	45.93-98	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
	6.6240-70	U.S. dollars	
	1344.25-75		
	227.40-55		
	7.2220-40		
	6.9675-95		
	8.2555-80		
One ounce of gold	486.50-487.50		

THE Daily Crossword

By Je Lums

ACROSS	31 Krazy —	64 Omar —	26 Danc —
1 Greatest portion	32 Eggs	65 Certain basketball score	27 Couch
5 Little row	33 Take long stitches	35 Feel	28 English river
9 Deposit at tidal inlet	39 Prom dresses	37 Bird crop	29 Mountain pool
14 Promise	15 — Major	41 Bad act	33 Deer little deer
16 "In like —"	17 Certain doctor	43 Per —	34 Easily moved
19 Finland coin	20 Mortal	44 Slip away	70 Tree frog
21 Of ships: abbr.	22 Conceal	46 Merry	71 Son of Seth
23 "Pomp and —"	24 "Pomp and —"	47 Sports org.	72 Informatic
27 Surflet	28 Surfeit	49 Military training monogram	37 Trickles through
30 Slithery fish	31 Skim	50 Notice	38 Vortex
	32 PARIS	51 Powerful attractions	40 One of the Oz people
	33 SAMAR	52 Creep along	52 Facto
	34 TINY	53 Eat at evening	45 Gambling scheme
	35 VENETIAN BLIND SPOT	54 Child of royalty	

TOP ED

Salvadorean leader backs defence minister; colonel vows to hang on

SAN SALVADOR (R) — President Alvaro Magana described an army mutiny in the north as a grave danger for El Salvador and told a rebel garrison commander to obey orders.

The commander, Col. Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, one of the most efficient officers in the U.S.-backed armed forces, declared last week that he no longer recognised the authority of Defence Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia and demanded his resignation.

In his first public reaction to the showdown between Gen. Garcia and Col. Ochoa, commander of the northern province of Cabanas, the president issued a statement which left no doubt about his backing of the defence minister, although neither he nor his mutinous subordinate were mentioned by name.

Dr. Magana is in overall charge of the military and his statement said the general command of the 24,000-strong armed forces had ordered "the immediate and unconditional compliance with general order number one... issued on Jan. 5."

This referred to a package of appointments and transfers which included switching Col. Ochoa from the Cabanas command to a post

as military attache in Uruguay.

A few hours before the president's statement, Gen. Garcia told a crowded press conference he had no intention of bowing to the rebel's demand for his resignation.

Col. Ochoa has vowed to hold out indefinitely "even if that means I have to die."

The government last night banned the country's media from publishing first hand accounts from Cabanas. Instructions circulated to newspapers and radio and television stations said reporting of the mutiny was restricted to official statements issued in the capital.

International news media were not affected by the restrictions.

Military sources meanwhile reported continued fighting between government troops and left-wing guerrillas in the province of Chalatenango which borders Cabanas.

The broadcasting station of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front reported its guerrillas overran 13 army positions in the north Monday.

White Namibian leader quits in protest

WINDHOEK, Namibia (South West Africa) (R) — Internal political leader Dirk Mudge says he is resigning as chairman of Namibia's ministerial council in protest at South Africa's handling of affairs in the disputed territory.

Mr. Mudge, a white millionaire farmer who led his multi-racial Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) to victory in one-man, one-vote elections in Namibia in 1978, said Monday night he would submit his formal resignation on Tuesday.

This will mean dissolution of the 12-man council, composed of a chairman and one minister from each of Namibia's 11 ethnic groups. All are DTA members.

Mr. Mudge's announcement follows previous threats to resign in a long-standing feud with outgoing South African administrator-general Danie Hough.

He finally quit because Mr. Hough referred back to the Namibian national assembly a bill abolishing several South African holidays in the territory, including the Dec. 16 day of the vow religious holiday revered by Afrikaners.

Prime Minister P.W. Botha of South Africa, which rules Namibia in defiance of the United Nations, said when he visited Windhoek in November that Mr. Hough would hand over shortly to a new administrator-general, Dr. Willie de Clerk.

He also extended the term of office of the national assembly, due to have expired on Nov. 23, for a further three months.

Mr. Botha said he hoped this would provide much-needed clarity in complex international negotiations for Namibia's independence.

The crunch apparently came when Mr. Hough's rejection of the bill abolishing South African holidays was lauded by White National Party chief Kose Pretorius, an arch-rival of Mr. Mudge in the territory's internal political struggle.

Mr. Pretorius, leader of the second-tier white assembly, had earlier urged a referendum to ascertain the views of Namibia's whites, who total about 75,000 in the population of one million, on the territory's future.

In a statement, Mr. Mudge accused the South African government of treating the territory's inhabitants with indifference. He said Pretoria had frustrated and antagonised moderates by pandering to the wishes of certain whites.

He accused the South African government of undermining DTA rule by continually talking to and dealing with minority groups and small parties after the DTA's landslide victory in 1978.

Mr. Pretorius, leader of the second-tier white assembly, had

better medical attention and mail delivery and closer observation of rules providing for recreation.



MI 24: SOVIETS' FLYING TANK:
This is a file photo of Soviet Union's Mi 24 Hind helicopter, which would be the Soviet bloc's chief weapon against NATO ground forces in Europe. It

is fitted with titanium armor, up to 16 laser-guided anti-tank missiles. The Hind is also used effectively in Afghanistan. (A.P. wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Reagan fed up with news leaks

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House, saying President Reagan was fed up with news leaks about his private meetings, has ordered restrictions on contracts between White House officials and reporters. "I've had it up to my keister (buttocks) with these leaks", Mr. Reagan was quoted as saying by communications director David Gergen. Mr. Gergen said some officials were giving information to reporters immediately after they had conferred with Mr. Reagan.

Afghans allegedly abduct 16 Soviets

ISLAMABAD (R) — Up to 16 Soviet civilian advisers were kidnapped in broad daylight from the Afghan town of Mazar-i-Sharif by anti-government rebels last week. Western diplomatic sources said reports from the area they believed to be accurate, said 14 to 16 advisers, two of them women, were abducted from the town's main bazaar. The authorities in Mazar-i-Sharif reacted by rounding up a large number of Afghan women to question them about the whereabouts of their menfolk, the sources said. The women were later freed but the fate of the kidnapped civilians was not known.

Iran wants arms seized in Madrid

MADRID (R) — Iran will soon provide documents to clear a shipment of arms impounded here on its way to Tehran from Argentina. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Vellayati said. The 11.3 tonne shipment, marked "machinery and spare parts", was impounded at Madrid airport on Dec. 23 after an inspection by customs officials but later released pending documentation to legalise its transit through Madrid. It contained 5,000 pistols and 60 heavy machine guns which Dr. Vellayati said were destined for Iranian security forces.

Armenian on fast in Turkish jail

ANKARA (R) — Levon Ekmekcian, an Armenian sentenced to death for his part in an attack on Ankara airport in which nine people died, has started a hunger strike in a military prison, informed sources said. They said he was protesting against the ratification of his death penalty by the Turkish national consultative assembly. Doctors reported meanwhile that the wife of a Turkish embassy attaché in Lisbon, shot by Armenian gunmen in an attack in Portugal last year, died in an Ankara hospital Monday.

Complaints about Peking taxis

PEKING (R) — Peking's state-controlled taxi companies are so badly run that a man whose wife was in labour had to rush her to hospital on a tricycle, according to a front-page letter in the official Peking Daily Tuesday. Li Jiumian complained three separate taxi offices said no cars were available, though he saw several cabs outside while the drivers chanted, and he had to take his wife to hospital by pedicab, a kind of tricycle with room behind for two passengers. Peking residents sometimes wait several hours for a cab, as the drivers get paid virtually or not and there is no competition. Tipping is forbidden.

Students, journalists scuffle in Dacca

DACCA (R) — Several students and journalists were injured Tuesday in scuffles at Dacca University after student leaders called off a planned demonstration against a government decision to make the learning of Arabic language mandatory. Angry students attacked the leaders who announced at the last minute that they were postponing the demonstration till the middle of next month but did not specify reasons. The students are demanding the scrapping of a new education policy announced in September which made Arabic a compulsory language in Bangladesh along with Bengali and English.

Managua tones down draft

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (R) — Moderate delegations at a meeting of Non-Aligned Third World states have persuaded Nicaraguans to tone down draft proposals denouncing U.S. and British involvement in Latin America and the Caribbean, conference sources said.

Delegates were meeting in private Tuesday to consider a revised working paper to put before a three-day ministerial session starting Wednesday.

A drafting committee under the chairmanship of Uganda was formed Monday to prepare agenda for the meeting, to dwell exclusively on the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The original draft submitted by Nicaragua a few weeks ago was highly critical of the U.S. and Britain. But the sources said Managua had softened its language at the request of moderate states.

A copy of the original draft, obtained from conference

Vietnamese batter rebels

BANGKOK (R) — Seven Kampuchean guerrillas were killed when Vietnamese-led forces shelled a strategic rebel-held village Tuesday in continued fighting close to the border with Thailand, Thai military sources said.

They said three other guerrillas of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (CPNLF) were wounded when 11 artillery shells and rockets hit the village of Yang Daeng Kum, which was overrun by rebels late last month.

The Vietnamese-led forces, using T-54 tanks and armoured personnel carriers, had earlier driven CPNLF forces from the village of Preav, a few kilometres south of Yang Daeng Kum.

The Thai sources, however, said fighting continued Tuesday

Reagan aide apologises

WASHINGTON (R) — White House chief of staff James Baker apologised for saying that labour secretary Raymond Donovan should resign.

President Reagan also stepped in quickly to express confidence in Mr. Donovan, who has repeatedly denied allegations by FBI informants that he had links to the underworld when he was a top executive of a New Jersey construction firm.

The president said Mr. Baker's remarks, made in an interview published by the Dallas Morning News, were "inadvertent and

Attempt to kill Hoenecker alleged

BONN (R) — East German head of state Erich Hoenecker narrowly escaped being assassinated by a 41-year-old heating worker near East Berlin on New Year's Eve, the West German weekly magazine Stern reported Tuesday.

The attempt to kill Mr. Hoenecker came at two o'clock in the afternoon as he was driving in a convoy of cars through Klosterfelde, north of the city, to his hunting lodge, Stern said. Mr. Hoenecker was not hurt, it said.

No immediate official comment was available. Mr. Hoenecker was seen in good health on television Monday night when he gave a New Year address to the East Berlin diplomatic corps.

Stern said the would-be assassin, whom it did not name, killed himself with a World War II revolver when his attack failed.

According to his friends, the would-be assassin had worked on the heating systems of houses of Mr. Hoenecker's close colleagues and neighbours and had conceived a hatred for them and their luxurious way of life, the magazine said.

Man with 82 wives on trial

PHOENIX, Arizona (R) — One of Giovanni Vigliotti's 82 wives told a court she flattered her all the time during their two-week "marriage" then vanished with her money.

Three times divorced Patricia Ann Gardner said she met 53-year-old Mr. Vigliotti in a street market in Nov. 1981 and took an immediate liking to him "because he looked right into my face and eyes. I liked that honest trait."

Two weeks after the "wedding" he fled with \$36,500 of her money. He was arrested in Panama City, Florida, in Dec. 1981.

According to investigators, Mr. Vigliotti also said he had been admitted to mental hospitals eight times.

glowing compliments before they spent whole night discussing weddings.

Mrs. Gardner, an estate agent, said Mr. Vigliotti told her he was rich and did not want his family to know she was not wealthy.

This, she said, was the reason he gave for wanting her to sell her home for \$63,000 after they went through a wedding ceremony following a whirlwind courtship.

She said he spent three-and-a-half days wooing her with

Turkish town tried today

ANKARA (R) — More than 700 residents of the little Turkish seaside town of Fatsa go on trial Wednesday — 260 of them facing the death penalty — on charges of trying to turn the town into an independent leftist "state".

It will be one of the biggest mass trials in Turkey's history.

The 740 defendants are accused in a 762-page indictment of taking over the northern town, setting up people's committees and people's courts, in the chaotic days before the military seized power in Turkey in 1980.

The charges against them range from 90 murders, 36 assaults, arson, bombing and armed robbery to the most serious, that of establishing an independent administration inside a state.

Fatsa, on the Black Sea, has become a symbol of the political polarisation which wracked Turkey in two years of rampant political violence before the 1980 coup.

Its residents will face a military court in Amasya, a city about 150 kilometres from their town.

They are all alleged members of the outlawed Dev-Yol (revolutionary way) group, a faction of the Turkish People's Liberation Party Front.

Press reports at the time said police were unable to enter many areas of the town. In July 1980, a soldier and three others were killed and several people injured in a gun battle.

The two issues have thwarted attempts by Paris to establish warm relations with Madrid since the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975, and diplomats were sceptical whether new political amities would be enough to clear the air, at least on the Common Market problem.

The French attitude on Spain's entry into the European Community and Spanish accusations that France provides safe haven for Basque guerrillas were expected to top the agenda for the "seminar", at a chateau in the Paris suburb of St. Cloud.

The two issues have thwarted attempts by Paris to establish warm relations with Madrid since the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975, and diplomats were sceptical whether new political amities would be enough to clear the air, at least on the Common Market problem.

French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran and six other ministers and secretaries of state would also look into possible cooperation in foreign policy, particularly in Latin America and North Africa, French officials said.

The most prickly issue is likely to be Spain's Common Market entry, which has been pushed back well beyond the current 1984 target due to the French attitude.

Government sources in Paris said there are few problems over conceding the Sikh religious demands.

Political commentators said Mrs. Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party may be in a mood to try for a

W. Berlin refuses to reopen Reichstag case

WEST BERLIN (R) — The West Berlin Supreme Court has refused to re-trial Marinus van der Lubbe, a Dutch Communist hanged by the Nazis for burning down the German Reichstag (Parliament) here 50 years ago.

The rejection was the latest setback to Johannes van der Lubbe, the victim's brother, who has been trying for years to have the case retried to clear the dead man's name.

A court spokesman said the judges turned down the brother's petition because lawmakers had never decided to create a court to replace the pre-war German state court. No legal possibility existed for cases dedicated by the old

court to be judged anew.

He also said the supreme court considered it improbable that a re-trial would result in Marinus van der Lubbe's complete acquittal.

The fire occurred soon after Hitler gained power and the Nazis used it as an excuse to ban the Communist Party.

Marinus van der Lubbe was found guilty of high treason at a show trial and sentenced to death.

Many historians believe the Nazis engineered the burning, using van der Lubbe as their tool.

In 1967 a west Berlin district court partly rehabilitated van der Lubbe, reducing the sentence from death to eight years imprisonment.

He said witnesses the brother wanted to call were not suitable for effecting a full rehabilitation.

They were postponing the demonstration till the middle of next month but did not specify reasons.

The students are demanding the scrapping of a new education policy announced in September

which made Arabic a compulsory language in Bangladesh along with Bengali and English.